



## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
Phone: (406) 542-5500  
Fax: (406) 542-5529

Friday, January 05, 2018

Dear Applicant,

Enclosed is a Blackfoot Float-In Camping permit application packet. Included is a permit application, permit conditions and requirements, as well as a float-in camping overview. Please read through all materials thoroughly and return the following:

- **Signed and dated permit application**
- **Completed (Initialed next to each line) *Float-In Campsite Leave No Trace Checklist***
- **All applicable camping fees**

**You must reserve a site **14 Days** before you would like to camp and all applicable paperwork and fees need to be submitted ten days before your trip.**

Once application materials are received by FWP, an approved permit will be sent back to you. Please remember that the float-in camping system is a privilege and your cooperation is needed to ensure that FWP can continue to provide this opportunity to the public. Remember to practice Leave-No-Trace ethics and that you are responsible for all members of your group.

Have a great trip on the Blackfoot and feel free to e-mail or call with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Christine Oschell, River Recreation Manager  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
3201 Spurgin Road.  
Missoula MT, 59804  
406.542-5562  
[coschell@mt.gov](mailto:coschell@mt.gov)  
Fax: 406.542.5529

**Thank you for your support of the Blackfoot River and its access sites!**

## **Blackfoot River Float-In Campsites**

### **Background**

Overnight float-trips that involve camping along the Blackfoot River are a desirable recreation opportunity for many people. In recent years there have been increased public requests for float-in camping on the Blackfoot and the topic was a management issue discussed in the Blackfoot River Recreation Management Plan (2010).

Beginning in 2012 Fish, Wildlife and Parks began a pilot float-in campsite program for the Blackfoot River to provide locations at existing fishing access sites (FAS) where floaters could camp, without worrying about campsites being taken by those driving to the site to camp. Since 2012 two additional Float-In camp sites have been made available by private landowners for public use.

### **Float-in Campsite Locations**

River Junction, Ninemile Prairie and Corrick's River Bend Fishing Access Sites all have float-in campsites. The "Clearwater" float-in site is located on private property near the confluence of the Blackfoot and Clearwater rivers. Ninemile Prairie and River Junction are sites designated within the existing FAS boundary. At Corrick's River Bend, two previously existing drive-in sites have been converted into two float-in campsites. Maps of each FAS are available from the Region 2 office that show the exact locations of float-in campsites in relation to the existing site infrastructure.

### **Obtaining a Float-in Campsite**

Each of the six individual float-in campsites are available by special permit only, which **must be reserved a minimum of 14 days** in advance by contacting the Region 2 FWP office at (406) 542-5564. Permits are issued on a first-come, first serve basis and guarantee the availability of the site to the permit holder. The following rules apply to obtaining a float-in campsite on the Blackfoot River:

- Float-in campsites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis by permit only.
- Only 3 float-in campsite permits can be held by one person at a time. Additional permits may be obtained for additional campsites after all existing permits have been used.
- Groups are limited to 8 people and no more than 2 tents per campsite.
- The permit holder must be present with their permit while using a float-in campsite.
- Fees for float-in campsites are as follows:
  - Fishing License Holder -- \$12 per night **NEW**
  - Non-license Holder -- \$18 per night **NEW**
  - Fees are reduced 50% for Montana Residents who are 62 years of age or older or disabled.
- Camp fees are non-refundable and must be paid within **10 days** of requesting a float-in campsite.

### **Leave No Trace – Camping Ethics and Etiquette**

The future of the program depends on the public's interest in FWP continuing to provide float-in campsites as well as the ability of FWP to manage the program within its existing budget and staffing levels. The program will be evaluated at the end of each season with results included in the Annual Blackfoot River Recreation Management Report. Float campers can help maintain these sites and help the float-in campsite program succeed into the future by practicing leave no trace outdoor ethics for river corridors. To maintain a high quality float-in camping opportunity, the following leave no trace practices are applicable to float-in campsite use:



- Bear Resistant Food Storage is required – food and attractants must be contained in a bear resistant container or attended at all times – see FAS rules on food storage for definitions  
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fwpDoc.html?id=59388>
- **New for 2018 Bear Boxes will be stationed at some Float-In Camps. You must contain ALL attractants in an approved bear resistant container!**
- Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Use a fire pan for all fires and charcoal, and carry out all ash.
- Do not cut live or dead standing wood. Gather firewood as you float or bring it with you.
- Use a toilet system and pack out human waste and feminine hygiene products.
- Urinating directly into the river or at least 100 feet from a designated campsite.
- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Protect wildlife and your belongings by storing rations and trash securely. Be Bear Aware.
- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home. Pack out all pet waste.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.
- Follow and adhere to all existing FAS rules and regulations as well as all commercial use rules for the Blackfoot River.

### **Firepans**

Use a firepan and carry out all ash every time a fire is created. A firepan is made of durable metal at least 12" x 12" with at least a 1.5 inch lip around its outer edge and sufficient to contain fire and remains. Firepans should be elevated off of the ground to prevent scorching. If the firepan does not have legs to elevate it, place rocks under the corners of the firepan. Use of a "fire blanket" is highly encouraged.

### **Human Waste**

All solid human waste should be carried out with a portable toilet or carryout system. Approved toilet systems must be reusable, washable, water tight, and SCAT machine® or RV-dump compatible. Portable toilets with snap on lids (such as ammo cans or plastic buckets) are required to have a rubber gasket in the lid. Plastic bag liners are not acceptable, with the exception of solid human waste pouches, such as WAG BAG® and RESTOP® bag systems, which are biodegradable and approved for landfill disposal. Avoid urinating in a portable toilet. Instead, urinate in the river or at least 100 feet from any designated campsites.

Both firepans and toilet systems can be purchased and rented from local retailers. For questions or suggestions on how to incorporate the use of a firepan or human waste pack out system on your river trip, please call the FWP R2 Headquarters. For additional information on human waste pack out and toilet systems please visit:

<http://www.river-management.org/better-boater-bathrooms>.

**For questions, concerns or comments related to the Blackfoot River Float-in Campsite Program, please contact:**

FWP Region 2 Headquarters  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 542-5500

Permit #:



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804

SPECIAL USE PERMIT  
Blackfoot Float-In Camp  
Secs. 23-1-106, 87-1-303 MCA  
ARM 12.8.205 Rev. 1/18

Subject to the provisions of the law and the conditions listed below, permission is granted to the person named below to use lands under control of the department for the recreational event indicated.

NAME OF PERMITTEE		Email	
STREET OR ROUTE			
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE		PHONE	
DESCRIPTION (EXACT LIMITS OF AREA TO BE USED) See attached map. Must remain with-in designated area.			
AUTHORIZED EVENT (DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE EVENT PERMITTED TO TAKE PLACE) Float in Camping at designated sites on the Blackfoot River			
Location:		Date:	
River Junction		_____	
Clearwater		_____	
Nine Mile Prairie		_____	
Corrick's River Bend		_____	
See attached rules, regulations and site specific map			
ITEMS OR STRUCTURES TO BE ERECTED OR PLACED ON DEPARTMENT LANDS			
Tents Only			
Fees:		Total Paid:	
_____ \$18 per night <u>without</u> valid Montana Fishing License		Check#      Cash	
_____ \$9 per night <u>without</u> valid Montana Fishing License (MT resident over 62 or disabled)			
_____ \$12 per night <u>with</u> valid Montana Fishing License ( Must provide ALS#)			
_____ \$6 per night <u>with</u> valid Montana Fishing License (MT resident over 62 or disabled) (Must provide ALS#)			
ALS # _____ - _____			
\$ _____ Total			
Camp fees are not refundable. All fees must be paid within 10 days of permit request or requested dates may be released. Check out time is 2pm.			
Is this a commercial or outfitted trip?    N			
If yes please provide company name			

FISH WILDLIFE & PARKS  
FOR THE DIRECTOR

DATE SIGNED

BY DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE

DATE SIGNED

PERMITTEE

This Permit is subject to the following conditions and requirements:

1. The Department may terminate or modify the conditions of this Permit by giving verbal notice to the Permittee at any time.
2. All applicable laws and administrative rules must be followed by the Permittee and participants in the recreational event.
3. Neither this Permit nor any right or duty in whole or in part by the Permittee under this Permit may be assigned, delegated or subcontracted without the written consent of the Department.
4. Only items listed above and agreed to by the Department may be placed in the use area.
5. If the planned event cannot be held on the above-listed dates, this Permit and condition will govern the alternate date of N/A.
6. Except as it may unreasonably interfere with the event, the area described in this Permit will remain open for use by the public.
7. The Department agrees that the Permittee shall have sole control of the method, hours worked, and the manner of performance under the Permit other than as specifically provided herein. The Department reserves the right to inspect the premises for the purpose of insuring that performance is progressing or has been completed in compliance with the Permit. The Department takes no responsibility for supervision or direction of the performance of the Permittee or the Permittee's employees or agents. The Department will exercise no control over the selection and dismissal of the Permittee's employees or agents.
8. All waste and debris resulting from this event shall be disposed of by the Permittee as directed by the Department. The permitted area shall be maintained in a clean, neat condition for the duration of the event.
9. No cutting or trimming of trees shall be done nor fire(s) started without Department approval.
10. The Permittee shall inspect the area described by this Permit before the event and shall remove, eliminate or correct any unsafe or dangerous condition or hazard. The Permittee shall maintain the permit area in a safe condition for the duration of the event.
11. The Permittee shall indemnify the Department and its employees against all claims, damages, costs, and expenses including reasonable attorney's fees arising either from the management of the event or from the breach or default on the part of the Permittee in the performance of the agreement, or from any negligence of the Permittee in the event.

If required, the Permittee shall purchase liability insurance (amounts may vary) to be effective the dates of the event and naming both the Department and its employees and the Permittee as insured in the amount of \$300,000.00 single limit per occurrence, including coverage of \$300,000 for bodily injury, including death, and \$25,000 property damage so the Department and its employees will be protected from any liability arising out of conducting the event by the Permittee. The Permittee will furnish the Department with a copy of the insurance policy or certificate of insurance thirty days prior to the event. This permit is conditioned upon the Department's approval of the insurance policy, if required. The Permittee will immediately notify the Department both verbally and in writing of any action by the Permittee to cancel the insurance policy.

12. The Permittee shall take reasonable actions under a plan approved by the Department representative to direct and supervise the parking of participants' and spectators' motor vehicles in order to prevent traffic problems. The Permittee shall post observers at the points where the event crosses a road.
13. The Permittee will not discriminate against any employee, participant, or applicant for employment to the event because of age, race, color, sex, religion, handicap, physical condition, developmental disability, or national origin.
14. The Permittee will furnish the Department with financial statements and such other operating reports concerning the event in such detail as the Department may require. These reports and statements shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days of completion of the event.
15. This Permit, together with any referenced parts and attachments, shall constitute the entire permit and previous communications or permits pertaining to this permit are hereby superseded. Any contractual revisions including cost adjustments and time extensions must be made by an amendment to this Permit or other written documentation, signed by both parties at least 30 days prior to the ending date of this permit.
16. Additional conditions specifically concerning this Permit will be in effect if numbered and attached. Each such condition will be initialed by the Permittee and the Department representative. (See attached Leave-No-Trace Checklist)

## Float-In Campsite Leave-No-Trace Checklist

To maintain a high quality float-in camping opportunity, the permittee acknowledges the following Leave-No-Trace practices applicable to float-in campsite use.

Permittee MUST Initial each line.

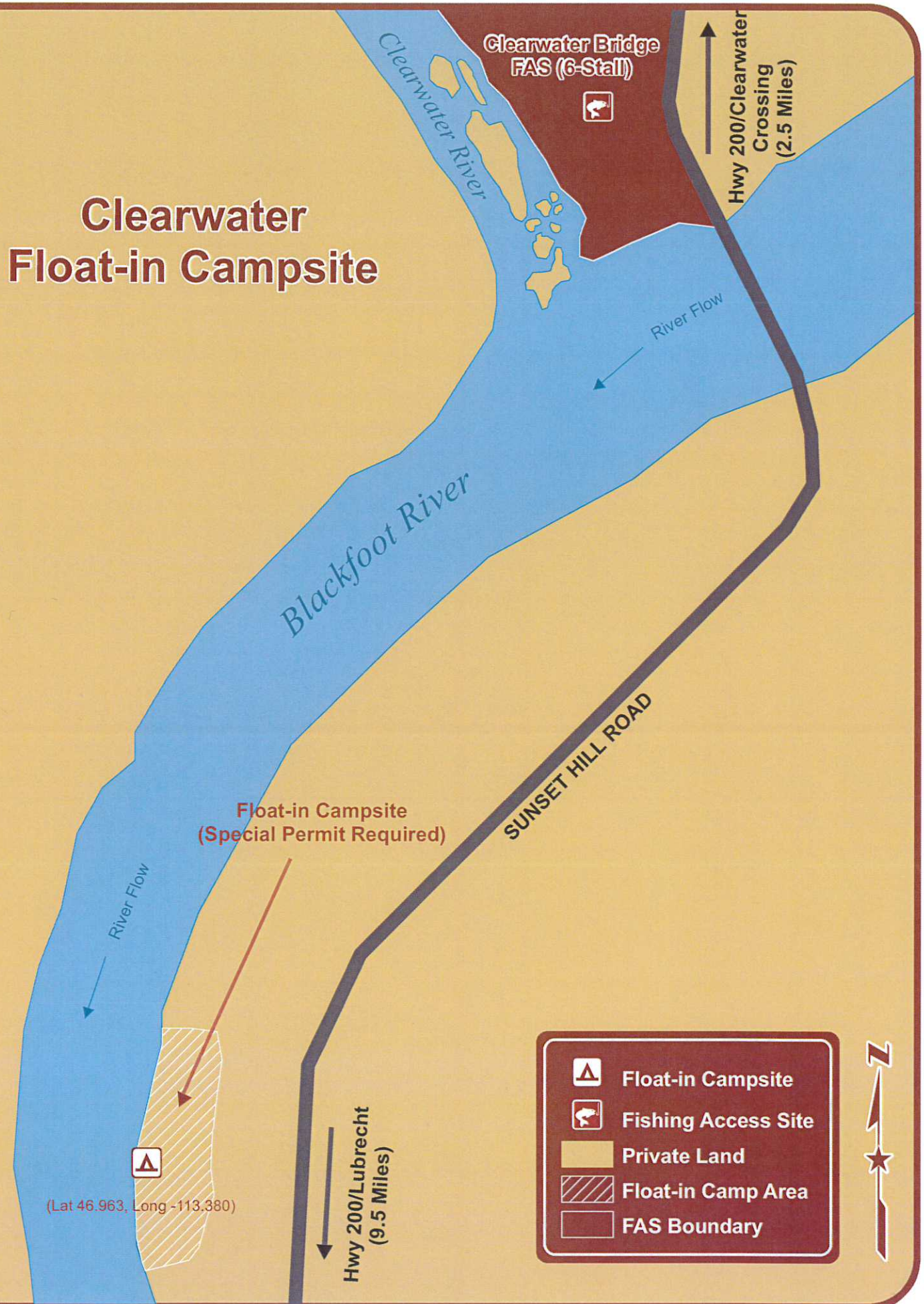
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bear Resistant Food Storage measures will be used
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keep group size equal to or less than eight people and two tents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use a fire pan for all fires.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pack out ash.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use a toilet system and pack out of all human waste and hygiene products.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inspect campsite for trash, spilled foods, and litter. Pack it in, pack it out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Collect fire wood as you float or bring it with you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Keep pets under control at all times and pack out their waste.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Carry valid float-in camping permit with you at all times.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Follow all FAS rules and regulations



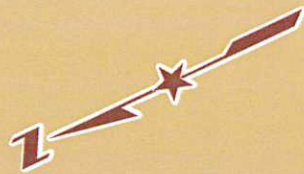




# Clearwater Float-in Campsite







Hwy 200/Johnsrud Park FAS  
(11.3 Miles)

Ninemile Prairie Road

Hwy 200/Roundup FAS  
(4.2 Miles)

	Camping Area
	Restroom
	Trail
	Float-in Campsite
	Float-in Camp Area
	FAS Boundary
	Other Land Ownership

Blackfoot River

Float-in Campsite  
(Special Permit Required)

(Lat 46.942, Long -113.503)

River Flow

River Flow



# Ninemile Prairie Fishing Access Site





# Corrick's River Bend Fishing Access Site

